
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
EBONY M. THOMPSON,
ACTING CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

July 27, 2023

Honorable President
Members of the City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary
409 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: Council Bill 23-0412 – City Property – Renaming Playground at Hanlon Park
After Ruby K. Couch

Dear President and Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 23-0412 for form and legal sufficiency. The purpose of the bill is to change the name of the playground at Hanlon Park, located at 2731 North Longwood Street, to the Ruby K. Couch Playground. The bill would take effect 30 days after it is enacted.

City real property, other than a street, is named or renamed by ordinance as provided in Baltimore City Code Article 5, Subtitle 20. Under Art. 5, § 20-2(b), the bill must be referred to the following agencies for review: the Planning Commission, the municipal agency that has or will have control over the City property, the Department of Real Estate, and any other agency that may have an interest in naming the City property. The bill introducing the ordinance to change the name of the playground was referred for review to the following departments: City Solicitor, Planning Commission, Department of Recreation and Parks, Baltimore Development Corporation, Department of Transportation, Department of Finance, Department of Real Estate.

The playground in question is located in Hanlon Park which was designated a Baltimore City landmark in 2019. See Ordinance 19-258 (2019) (Council Bill 18-0295). City landmarks are overseen by the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (“CHAP”). CHAP is located within the Planning Department. The bill has been referred to the Planning Commission, which is also located within the Planning Department. Because the playground is located in a City landmark CHAP may have an interest in the naming of the property and a separate referral for report to CHAP is recommended. The playground is located on City property which falls under the control of the Department of Recreation and Parks. The renaming of the playground at Hanlon Park should adhere to the Department of Recreation and Parks’ Policy for Naming and

Renaming Parks, Park Structures, and Facilities. The bill has been referred to the agencies required under Art. 5, § 20-2(b), although a referral to CHAP is recommended.

The Law Department approves the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michele Toth".

Michele Toth
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Stephen Salsbury
Nina Themelis
Sofia Gebrehiwot
Tiffany Maclin
Elena DiPietro
Hilary Ruley
Ashlea Brown
Jeff Hochstetler
Teresa Cummings